custom duty relating to Pharmaceuticals industry. This exercise is undertaken when proposals are received from various Associations of Pharmaceuticals Industry sector as well as indigenous manufacturers, and these proposals are examined in detail in consultation with the concerned departments and the recommendations are forwarded to Ministry of Finance for consideration/approval. The Ministry of Finance notify the appropriate slab of custom duty in the Official Gazette from time to time.

Inclusion of Tai-Ahoms in the S.T. List

2740. SHRI BHADRESWAR BURAGOHAIN: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received a memorandum from some self-styled Tai-Ahom organisations from Assam demanding the inclusion of the Tai-Ahoms into the Scheduled Tribe List of the Constitution and also for creation of a Ahom State out of Assam;

(b) whether Government have enquired into the genuineness of the signatory organisations in the memorandum; if so, the details thereof; if not the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action taken by Government on the subject?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): (a) No Sir. However, representations have been received from various organisations/individuals for inclusion of Tai-Ahom community in Scheduled Tribe list of Assam.

(b) and (c) For inclusion of any community in the list of Scheduled Tribes, genuineness of the community, (and not the organisation/individual) is studied in consultation with the concerned State Government and other expert organisations. This proposal is being examined alongwith similar other proposals in the context of comprehensive revision of Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes list.

Imposing fine by Supreme Court on Steel Plant

2741. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Supreme Court of India has imposed fines on the Durgapur Steel Plant and the Indian Iron and Steel Company for not providing pollution control devices in time;

(b) if so, whether accountabilities and responsibilities have been fixed for these delays and the administrative, disciplinary, procedural and other action taken in this regard; and

(c) the other projects in SAIL plants, relating to pollution control devices, modernisation, rehabilitation, expansion etc. involving repeated time and cost overruns and the specific action taken to ensure timely completion of project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) (i) *Durgapur Steel Plant*

At DSP, the main scheme under implementation covered by the Supreme Court case is installation of a Gas Cleaning Plant for the Twin Hearth Furnace. This is a scheme of retrofitting nature involving plant shut downs and being carried out in a restrictive space. The volume of job involved has achieved encouraging progress with respect to major civil jobs, structural/mechanical erection, equipment supply and the site was ready for erection by 15.11.1995. The time frame of November, 1995 could not be adhered to as the Contractor for Gas Cleaning Plan for the Twin Hearth Furnace, failed in getting the critical items from the suppliers. The suppliers of these items failed to maintain the schedule due to closure/strike of their works.

The fine imposed on DSP was due to

failure of the contractor to complete the scheme within the stipulated time of November, 1995 and it will be taken care of at the time of the closure of the contract.

(ii) *Indian Iron & Steel Co. Ltd. (IISCO)*

At IISCO, two schemes are involved namely Dedusting System at Boiler A & B and Dedusting System at Dolomite Kiln. Here also, the jobs are of retrofitting nature involving plant shut downs. The problem is compounded by the very restrictive space available in this 70 year old steel plant. Both these jobs have made considerable progress though there have been delay in supply of equipment from the main supplier.

Since September, 1995, IISCO has started paying their sub-contractors/ Vendors, directly to finish the jobs on revised schedule date. A Committee is being constituted to go in the reasons for delays and fix up the responsibility.

(c) (i) *Durgapur Steel Plant*

Other Pollution Control Schemes at Durgapur Steel Plant committed to Ministry of Environment and Forest have been successfully completed mostly in time without any cost overrun.

(ii) *Indian iron & Steel Co. Ltd. (IISCO)*

The proposal for revival of IISCO which incorporates modern pollution control measures is still pending before BIFR for final decision. However, the following projects under Additions/ Modifications/ Replacement Category have incurred time, cost or both overruns as indicated against each of them :

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	Remarks
1.	Augmentation & Betterment of water supply system for Burnpur Works & Township.	Involved both time & cost overruns due to non-availability of funds.
2.	Augmentation of Power supply system for Burnpur Township.	Involved time overrun, due to non-availability of funds.
3.	Augmentation of Laboratory facilities at Burnpur Works.	Involved time overrun, due to non-availability of funds.

Amongst the major Government approved schemes, under implementation, the cost and time overrun have occured only in two schemes viz DSP Modernisation and RSP Modernisation.

The cost overrun has been mainly due to fiscal factors which are 89% and 85% of the total cost overrun in case of DSP and RSP Modernisation respectively.

The time overrun of 36 months in case of DSP Modernisation is mainly on account of disintegration of erstwhile USSR resulting in delay of supplies and other activities of Tyazpromexport.

The time overrun of 8 months for RSP Modernisation is mainly on account of delays in signing of Indo-French Protocol which has subsequently delayed the finalisation of order.